

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF HAMILTON,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1861.



SALEM:

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1861.



R E P O R T .

THE Committee, having no new suggestions to make in regard to the condition and management of the Schools, present a brief report.

The appropriation for schools made by the town, at the annual meeting in March, 1860, was eight hundred dollars, the largest annual appropriation ever voted by the town for this purpose, being for the resources of the town a very liberal one.

It has been the desire and effort of the Committee that the town should receive an equivalent, in the progress of the schools, for the money devoted to their support. We followed the system recommended in the last report, of employing females for the summer, and males for the winter schools.

The statistics of the several Schools are as follows :

NORTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term. Miss Ellen S. Cook, of Wakefield, N. H., Teacher. Length of term five months; whole number of pupils 37; average attendance 26. The term was divided, the first part beginning April 16th, and ending July 30th; the second beginning August 29th, and ending September 29th.

Miss Cook was a very successful teacher; she excelled as a disciplinarian, having the happy faculty of enforcing order without a display of authority.

The Committee did not learn that during the whole term of her instruction, there was any disturbance of the orderly conduct of the school; good progress was made in all the studies, but the Committee were especially pleased with the care and attention which had been bestowed upon writing, which has been in some instances greatly neglected.

Winter Term. Mr. Eben A. Andrews of Ipswich, Teacher. Length of term $3\frac{3}{4}$ months; whole number of pupils 49; average attendance 37.

Although Mr. Andrews was an inexperienced teacher, he succeeded both as a disciplinarian and instructor, in giving general satisfaction to all interested in the school. At the closing examination the appearance of the various classes gave evidence of the faithfulness of the teacher.

The class in grammar, composed of the older scholars, was especially deserving of favorable notice for their attention to this study. The several classes in arithmetic gave evidence of thorough training by very satisfactory performances on the blackboard. Geography was not so generally studied as was desirable, although some of the pupils made a fair appearance. The writing was fair. The reading was very commendable, considerable improvement having been made during the term. The balance of last year's school appropriation belonging to this district which remained unexpended at its close, gave this school a longer period of instruction than was enjoyed in the other districts during the present year.

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term. Miss Annie C. Andrews, Teacher. Length of term 12 weeks; whole number of pupils, 40; average attendance 32 7-50.

This school opened under favorable circumstances with Miss P. M. Dodge, of Chatham, Teacher. After having carried the school along for two weeks very successfully, Miss Dodge was compelled by sickness to resign her situation.

The Committee were fortunate in securing the services of Miss Andrews for the remainder of the term. The proficiency of the school

in grammar, was very satisfactory, especially of the first class in that study; very good progress was made in arithmetic. The discipline of the school was well kept up.

Winter Term. Jonathan Rollins, of Northampton, N. H., Teacher. Length of term 3 months and 3 days; whole number of pupils 47; average attendance 38.

Mr. Rollins was highly successful, the Committee believe, in the government of the school. At the closing examination, the classes in grammar, geography and some of those studying arithmetic, gave good evidence of interest in these studies; this was particularly true of the grammar class. The writing seemed not to have received due attention from either teacher or pupils; spelling had also been neglected; the reading was fair.

WEST DISTRICT.

Summer Term. Miss Sophia F. Lovering, Teacher. Length of school 12 weeks; whole number of pupils 30; average attendance 25 45-274. Miss Lovering met with the success which the Committee anticipated from her experience and faithful performance of duty. The general result of the term was very satisfactory.

Winter Term. Mr George H. Stevens, of Deerfield, N. H., Teacher. Whole number of pupils 37; average attendance 30 1-22. Length of school 3 3-4 months. Mr. Stevens was a teacher of experience and tact, and thoroughly furnished for his work. He showed energy and enthusiasm in teaching, and the result was a constant and steady progress by the school in the several branches of study. The ready obedience to the will of the teacher shown by the pupils, proved the wise management of the teacher.

EAST DISTRICT.

Summer Term. Miss Sarah E. Webster, Teacher. Length of school 10 weeks; whole number of pupils 25; average attendance, 16.

Miss Webster was a faithful and successful teacher, giving good satisfaction to the committee and district.

Winter Term. Zeno A. Appleton, Esq., Teacher. Length of term 4 months; whole number of scholars 34; average attendance 27 2-5.

This term though unusually long has been well and profitably spent, the pupils being under the charge of a faithful and persevering teacher. The reading of some of the older scholars showed more than usual excellence in this branch of study; the writing indicated care and neatness on the part of pupils and instruction from the teacher. The average attendance during this term has been equal to the whole number of scholars at any former term for several years.

Upon the whole your committee are of the opinion that the town should regard the year of our school history, just completed, as successful above the average of the last few years. The attention of the Committee has not in a single instance, been called to any failure in the discipline of either of the schools, which is in marked contrast with the experience of the year immediately preceding. We are confirmed in the opinion which was fully stated in the last report, that our winter schools should be under the charge of male teachers.

DANIEL E. SAFFORD,	} School Committee
WILLIAM A. BROWN,	
J. PETERS LOVERING;	

HAMILTON, March, 1861.



